

REMARKS

Claims 10, 14-15, 18, 21, 23-26 and 29-31 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

The Abstract stands objected to because it is too long. Applicant(s) have amended the Abstract. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Dao et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,915,207). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is believed that the originally filed claims are patentably distinct over this reference. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 19, 20, 27 and 28 have been cancelled from the present application, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER


The Examiner states that claims 10, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23-26 and 29-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant(s) have amended claims 10, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23-24 and 29 to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, claims 10, 14, 15, 18, 21, 23-26 and 29-31 should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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